

ish Columbia. While searching for earthworms, we dug with our hands into loose moss, litter, and humus at the base of a decayed tree stump. We uncovered a clutch of 12 eggs within a small hollow created by the root of a hemlock sapling and a piece of decayed wood (12 × 5 × 1.5 cm) about 10 cm under the surface. The grape-like cluster of eggs was enclosed in a gelatinous membrane with a stalk attached to the underside of the wood. We noted the presence of an adult who crawled further underground before we could verify its identity. We quickly replaced the nest to its original position.

We revisited the site on 19 Aug 2002 to photograph the nest (photographs of the nest and accompanying adult were deposited in the Royal British Columbia Museum image database). We estimated adult SVL to be > 50 mm but did not handle the individual for exact measurements. The large size suggests that the adult was likely a female. Eyes and small legs were visible within each egg. One egg was 0.56 cm in diameter. On 29 Sept 2002, we returned to the site and found only a small gelatinous lump on the wood. The substrate appeared as we had left it.

This nest description is noteworthy for two reasons. First, only two other natural nests of *P. vehiculum* have been documented in the literature. They were found 12 cm apart beneath a rock (40 × 30 × 15 cm) in talus at the base of a shear roadside basalt outcrop near Klickitat Lake, Oregon (Hanlin et al. 1979. *J. Herpetol.* 13:214–216). Leonard et al. (1993. *Amphibians of Washington and Oregon*. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle. 168 pp.) suggested that nests and eggs of *P. vehiculum* are not well documented because most egg clutches are probably located well beneath the surface. The nest that we found was at a shallow depth under humus and wood, where it would be considerably more vulnerable to predation, desiccation, and soil compaction than would eggs in deeper nest sites. Second, this clutch of 12 eggs is notably larger than the clutches of 8 and 9 reported by Hanlin et al. (1979, *op. cit.*) and the clutch of 9 laid by a captive female (Stebbins 1951. *Amphibians of Western North America*. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 539 pp.). It is within the high end of the range reported for ovarian clutches (6–19 eggs per clutch; mean = 10.43; N = 65) for the species in Oregon (Peacock and Nussbaum 1973. *J. Herpetol.* 7:215–224). The adult associated with the nest was within the range of females measured on Vancouver Island (42–58 mm SVL; Ovaska and Gregory 1989. *Herpetologica* 45:133–143).

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PSEUDOTRITON RUBER RUBER (Northern Red Salamander). **SIZE AND SUBTERRANEAN AGGREGATION.** Conant and Collins (1998. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*. 3rd ed., expanded. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 616 pp.) reported 181 mm total length (TL) as the maximum size for *Pseudotriton ruber ruber*. Herein, we report an aggregation of exceptionally large *P. r. ruber* from a cave, many approaching the reported maximum size.

On 20 October 2005, 14 *P. r. ruber* were discovered in Anderson Spring Cave, a state-owned cave on Pigeon Mountain, Walker Co., Georgia, USA. All individuals were found underneath rocks in the cave stream, ca. 25–75 m beyond the twilight zone. Water

depth of the stream ranged from 2–10 cm. Thirteen individuals were captured, measured to the nearest mm using a metric rule, and weighed to the nearest 0.5 g using a Pesola scale. The largest individual measured 113 mm SVL, 180 mm TL, and weighed 27.0 g. Three other individuals exceeded 110 mm SVL, 175 mm TL, and 25.0 g. Mean size ± 1 SD for the 13 captured individuals was 102.7 ± 7.6 mm SVL, 164.8 ± 11.1 mm TL, and 19.7 ± 4.4 g mass. The smallest individual from Anderson Spring Cave (92 mm SVL, 155 mm TL, 17.0 g) was larger than the largest individual (female 85 mm SVL) out of 316 specimens collected by Bruce (1978. *Copeia* 1978:417–423) in the southern Blue Ridge of North Carolina. A voucher photograph was taken of the largest individual and placed into the Herpetological Collection at Austin Peay State University (APSU 18055).

Female *P. ruber* grow larger than males (Bruce 1978, *op. cit.*); however, sex is difficult to determine externally. During autumn, females disappear from surface sites, presumably to brood eggs, and are not observed on the surface until late autumn or winter (Petranka 1998. *Salamanders of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, DC. 587 pp.). Although adults are common in headwater springs and seeps (Hunsinger 2005. *In* M. Lannoo [ed.], *Amphibian Declines: The Conservation Status of United States Species*, pp. 860–862. Univ. of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles), *P. ruber* has infrequently been reported from caves. The salamanders observed in Anderson Spring Cave may represent a breeding aggregation of exceptionally large females. Males may also be present within the aggregation. The two largest individuals from Anderson Spring Cave were found brooding separate egg masses beneath the same rock, and another large female had ova visible through her venter. Communal nesting has not been documented in *P. ruber*, although Miller and Niemiller (2005. *Herpetol. Rev.* 36:429) observed presumably two females brooding an egg mass in the twilight zone of a cave stream in DeKalb County, Tennessee, in September 2004. Walker (1931. *In* Pflingsten and Downs 1989. *Salamanders of Ohio*. Ohio Biol. Surv. Bull. New Series Vol. 7 No. 2. 315 pp.) discovered 22 adults on 24 March within a few square meters in a spring in Knox County, Ohio, and suggested that the concentration may have been related to hibernation. Rather than hibernation, we suggest the aggregation may have been related to reproduction.

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ANURA

ACRIS CREPITANS BLANCHARDI (Blanchard's Cricket Frog). **MORPHOLOGY.** Cricket Frog dorsal background color varies from light to dark gray or from light tan to dark reddish-brown (Milstead et al. 1974. *Evolution* 28:489–491). The vertebral stripe of *A. crepitans* is polymorphic, and can be a varying shade of red (red, brown, reddish brown), green, or gray (Pyburn 1961. South-